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*Mar 6th*  
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN, TREASURER,

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF WEBSTER,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1874.

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1874.

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## R E P O R T.

Whole amount of taxes committed to the collector for  
1873, was \$5,450.65

The collector has discharged himself as follows:

Paid town treasurer, cash abatements, and receipts for non-resident highway taxes worked out,	4,605.65
Amount due from collector,	\$845.00

### R E C E I P T S.

Received of former treasurer,	\$317.48
Municipal war-loan bonds,	6,300.00
Received of C. A. Stone, on collection for 1871,	192.60
D. C. Hubbard, " 1872,	169.46
Phinehas W. Whittier, on collection for 1873,	4,605.65
Charles C. Kimball, for state bond No. 550,	500.00
W. S. Davis, old bridge timber,	8.00
State treasurer, interest on bonds,	348.00
Charles S. Danforth, money hired,	80.00
Eliza J. Call,	100.00
H. H. & J. L. Gerrish,	50.00
John Sanborn,	500.00
Nicodemus Watson,	200.00
John Aiken,	100.00
Nancy C. Jones,	100.00
William B. Burpee,	50.00
John K. Law,	150.00
Lavinia J. Call,	500.00
State treasurer, railroad tax,	240.63
savings bank tax,	779.02
literary fund,	60.00
bounty claim,	113.60
County, support of Mrs. Ward,	97.70
Liquor agent,	20.00
Town of Boscawen, repairing bridge,	6.00
	<hr/> \$15,588.14

## SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES.

Paid miscellaneous bills,	\$314.84
Roads and bridges,	693.07
Breaking roads,	361.63
School money,	870.00
School-house tax,	50.00
Abatements,	104.33
Support of paupers,	779.94
State and county tax,	2,070.35
Notes and interest,	1,029.30
Bonds and interest,	2,092.00
Non-resident highway tax paid in labor,	39.69
Town officers,	338.55
Cash in treasury,	500.44
"                  dog tax,	44.00
State bonds in treasury,	5,800.00
Town treasurer, state bond No. 550,	500.00
	_____
	\$15,588.14

## MISCELLANEOUS BILLS.

Paid Nathan Tucker, loss of sheep by dogs,	\$27.00
Morrill & Silsby, stationery,	8.49
Nathan Goodwin, refreshments,	3.20
Curtice & Stevens, spikes,	12.00
Dow & Davis, spikes and tar,	1.50
D. Arthur Brown & Co., bridge irons,	39.20
Town clerk, Mont Vernon, searching records in Ward case,	.75
Republican Press Association, printing reports,	32.00
C. C. Kimball, water,	3.00
Albe C. Sweatt, interest on money, 1872,	4.75
Albe C. Sweatt, cash paid N. Butler for advice in Jackman case,	.50
A. C. Sweatt, services, selectman, 1872,	5.25
P. F. S. Clarke, "        "        "	2.25
W. W. Burbank, "        "        "	2.25
D. C. Hubbard, refreshments,	1.25
Pike & Blodgett, legal advice,	25.00
Hollis Jackman, digging graves and clearing yard,	18.00
Perley Jackman, digging graves,	8.00
Town clerk, Boscawen, searching records in Lydia Rolfe case,	.25

Paid Hollis Jackman, repairs at town house,	\$1.00
Thomas Elliott, water, 1871,	2.50
Pearson & Little, spikes and nails,	8.25
Atherton Sweatt, board and room rent,	5.00
N. M. Noyes, digging grave,	2.00
P. R. Stevens, water, 1872 and 1873,	6.00
C. S. Danforth, horse hire and expense out of town,	3.00
W. W. Burbank, " " "	14.90
P. F. S. Clarke, " " "	46.00
Paul F. S. Clarke, board of town officers,	3.00
"      " expense at Lyndeborough,	11.00
Postage and blanks,	4.00
J. B. Chase, bridge irons and bar,	7.25
E. M. Adams, snowing bridge,	2.80
Thomas Elliott, water, 1873,	2.50
J. L. Couch, taking deposition,	1.00
	—
	\$314.84

## ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paid J. H. Noyes, work on bridge,	\$3.00
Daniel Milton, work on bridge,	20.00
Rice Corser, work on road,	1.50
Harvey Chase, lumber,	184.42
Tristam Sanborn, work on bridge,	18.38
C. B. Little, " " "	12.00
F. S. Putney, " " "	22.50
J. C. Jackman, " " "	3.00
J. W. Jackman, work on road,	3.75
Harvey Sweatt, " " "	1.50
M. F. Call, " " "	.75
John Kilburn, Jr., work on road,	8.78
John Kilburn, Jr., work on bridge,	18.00
Lewis Silver, " " "	18.00
C. D. Glitten, work on road,	3.50
W. W. Austin, plank, work on road,	7.67
Lewis Silver, work on road,	4.50
J. C. Waldron, work on road,	9.75
G. C. Chase, " " "	5.75
G. C. Chase, work on bridge,	3.00
Thomas Kilburn, work on road,	27.27
G. A. Hoit, " " "	17.25
Samuel Bailey, " " "	9.37
W. M. Holmes, " " "	9.45

Paid J. B. Goodhue, work on road,	\$4.60
A. C. Sweatt, work on bridge,	3.00
A. S. Burbank, work on road,	7.50
N. Goodwin, work on bridge,	2.00
Samuel Little, work on road,	2.50
O. H. Fitts,      "      "	12.25
Jabez Abbott,      "      "	.75
Moses Whittier, stone for bridge,	9.25
P. W. Whittier, work on bridge,	8.00
Abiel Trumbull,      "      "	25.50
J. C. Pearson, work on road,	3.50
F. A. Shepard,      "      "	5.00
F. L. Burbank & Son, lumber,	33.37
J. C. Jackman, work on road,	1.50
E. M. Adams, stone,	1.00
C. S. Danforth, work on roads and bridges,	29.60
W. W. Burbank, work on roads and bridges,	16.50
P. F. S. Clarke,      "      "      "	96.50
Albert Runals, work on roads,	11.91
Edmund Silver, work on roads,	2.50
Ephraim Little,      "      "	.75
G. L. Simpson, work on roads and bridges,	2.50
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	\$693.07

## BREAKING ROADS.

Paid Walter J. Simpson, breaking roads,	\$8.55
J. H. Noyes,      "      "	5.25
Frank B. Tilton,      "      "	1.50
C. C. Kimball,      "      "	12.75
J. W. Jackman,      "      "	4.50
I. C. Waldron,      "      "	3.72
Samuel Bailey,      "      "	1.45
Jos. B. Thurber,      "      "	3.83
J. A. Flanders,      "      "	7.00
J. L. Gerrish,      "      "	2.92
C. B. Little,      "      "	5.00
F. S. Putney,      "      "	18.90
Thomas Gerrish, Jr.,      "      "	3.00
J. B. Couch,      "      "	4.10
Moses Whittier,      "      "	6.00
J. C. Jackman,      "      "	4.50
M. F. Call,      "      "	4.00
C. E. Putney,      "      "	7.00

Paid John Kilburn, Jr.,	breaking roads,	\$6.00
M. A. Pillsbury,	" "	3.00
Hiram Roby,	" "	9.00
Lewis Silver,	" "	9.00
R. E. French,	" "	7.00
E. H. Smiley,	" "	13.36
L. S. Tilton,	" "	1.50
B. S. Stone,	" "	2.35
H. G. Stone,	" "	1.35
G. L. Simpson,	" "	4.40
R. W. Simpson,	" "	1.35
D. C. Rolfe,	" "	2.35
J. G. Couch,	" "	1.36
W. B. Simpson,	" "	1.00
I. A. Call,	" "	1.35
B. F. Call,	" "	1.20
J. L. Couch,	" "	7.21
C. A. Stone,	" "	4.00
Cyrus Dustin,	" "	2.50
G. T. Sanborn,	" "	1.70
J. B. Goodhue,	" "	9.85
C. S. Colby,	" "	4.50
L. A. Rice,	" "	4.42
G. W. Jackman,	" "	4.50
W. F. Wadleigh,	" "	9.54
Ezra Sanborn,	" "	1.80
Jane Couch,	" "	1.90
H. B. Sanborn,	" "	6.00
Cyrus Fitts,	" "	7.65
N. Goodwin,	" "	4.65
D. C. Eastman,	" "	6.00
W. P. Elliott,	" "	2.40
S. C. Hanson,	" "	4.00
Samuel Little,	" "	3.40
O. H. Fitts,	" "	5.20
C. F. Blanchard,	" "	3.80
S. T. Titcomb,	" "	2.00
P. W. Whittier,	" "	10.35
L. C. Titcomb,	" "	1.50
George Little,	" "	4.50
J. C. Pearson,	" "	2.50
Rice Corser,	" "	1.13
P. R. Stevens,	" "	15.20
C. S. Danforth,	" "	4.75

Paid J. S. Whittier,	breaking roads,	\$5.55
P. S. F. Clark,	" "	31.50
Edmund Silver,	" "	11.50
Ephraim Little,	" "	4.50
Thomas Elliott,	" "	2.50
		————
		\$361.63

## ABATEMENTS.

Paid abatements for 1871,	\$40.83
1872,	56.67
1873,	6.83
	————
	\$104.33

## SCHOOL MONEY.

Paid John K. Law, district No. 1,	70.74
A T. Kilburn, district No. 2,	68.32
W. W. Burbank, district No. 3,	115.44
D. C. Rolfe, district No. 4,	65.52
J. D. Sanborn, district No. 5,	50.48
C. A. Stone, district No. 6,	114.42
W. W. Austin, district No. 7,	70.45
J. L. Gerrish, district No. 8,	172.65
Hiram Roby, district No. 9,	132.49
C. S. Colby, Jr., district No. 10,	9.49
	————
	\$870.00

## SCHOOL-HOUSE TAX.

Paid O. H. Fitts, school-house tax, district No. 1,	\$16.00
Atherton Sweatt, school-house tax, district No. 1,	34.00
	————
	\$50.00

## SUPPORT OF PAUPERS.

Paid Hiram Tilton, support of Jane H. Ward and child,	\$72.00
Dr. E. E. Graves, medical attendance,	55.00
N. H. Asylum, support of Moses Sawyer,	223.35
Lewis Silver, wood for I. Jackman,	7.25
Pearson & Little, supplies for I. Jackman,	85.75
W. F. Wadleigh, drawing wood for I. Jackman,	1.50
E. Silver, drawing wood for I. Jackman,	6.00
E. Silver, wood and potatoes for I. Jackman,	7.38
L. A. Rice, support transient paupers,	2.00

Paid Liquor agent, liquor furnished Lydia Rolfe,	\$0.96
Charles Tilton, sawing wood for I. Jackman,	1.25
G. T. Sanborn, supplies furnished Benjamin and	
Susan Sweatt,	317.50
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	\$779.94

## STATE AND COUNTY TAX.

Paid state tax,	\$1,332.00
county tax,	738.35
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	\$2,070.35

## NOTES AND INTEREST.

Paid I. D. Merrill, interest on note,	\$18.00
H. H. & J. L. Gerrish, note and interest,	50.25
Nicodemus Watson, "	201.00
John Sanborn, "	502.50
John K. Law, "	153.37
Calvin Morrill, interest on note,	3.00
School district No. 8, Boscowen,	11.28
Charles S. Danforth, note and interest,	82.40
W. W. Burbank, use of money,	7.50
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	\$1,029.30

## BONDS AND INTEREST.

Paid C. C. Kimball, bond No. 10,	\$100.00
John Sanborn, " 18,	500.00
Nicodemus Watson, " 7,	200.00
John Aiken, " 3,	100.00
Nancy C. Jones, " 8,	100.00
Interest on bonds,	1,092.00
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	\$2,092.00

Non-resident highway tax paid in labor,	\$39.69
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## TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid F. F. Fiske, services as S. S. Committee, 1872,	\$25.00
Edward Buxton, "	23.00
Atherton Sweatt, town clerk, salary,	19.30
Edward Buxton, services as S. S. Committee,	16.00
Ephraim Little, "	15.00
P. W. Whittier, collector,	40.00

Paid Charles S. Danforth, services as selectman and overseer of the poor,	\$36.25
William W. Burbank, services as selectman and overseer of the poor,	47.00
Paul F. S. Clarke, services as selectman and overseer of the poor,	97.00
Paul F. S. Clarke, salary as town treasurer,	20.00
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	\$338.55

DEBT OF THE TOWN, MARCH 1, 1874.

In bonds,	\$15,250.00
In notes, Phebe Noyes,	85.76
John Stone,	38.00
Calvin Morrill,	50.00
School district No. 8, Boscowen,	188.00
I. D. Merrill,	300.00
Eliza J. Call,	100.00
John Aiken,	100.00
Nancy C. Jones,	100.00
Lavina J. Call,	500.00
William B. Burpee,	50.00
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	\$16,761.76

## ASSETS.

Balance against the town, 8,062.73

PAUL F. S. CLARKE,  
WILLIAM W. BURBANK,  
CHARLES S. DANFORTH, } Selectmen  
of  
Webster.

## REPORT

OF THE

## SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

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*To the citizens of the Town of Webster:*

We hoped to secure teachers who would follow somewhat nature's process in the development of the intellectual faculties. We are sorry to report that we have not in every instance been as successful as we desired. We have found earnest, faithful, working teachers, who have had much to contend with. Parents are anxious to have their children make all possible advancement in their studies, seeming to think the number of pages turned commensurate with the practical knowledge acquired. Others hardly knew what their children were learning, and seemed to care as little. To the above mentioned evils, add that of a teacher who could only *hear lessons* and had no idea of teaching, and the result may well be deplorable.

We would place the responsibility where it lies. The engaging of teachers is one of the duties of the district Prudential Committee. His first and great embarrassment is a small amount of money. He feels the necessity of using that as prudently as possible. Citizens all second his endeavors, and give evidence of it by boarding teachers at a lower rate than any other class of people. Good teachers are scarce. "Scarce is always costly." Consequently it is utterly impossible to pay the price good teachers can command, and have the usual length of school. The expressed opinion of one committee that "Our school is small and backward, therefore we do not need a teacher who knows very much," is too common. "The only reason," said another, "why

we hired that teacher was, that we could get her cheap." The Prudential Committee are responsible only as individuals for the lack of money. In this responsibility each voter must share.

The Superintending Committee often sees nothing of the teacher until the time appointed for the beginning of the term,—sometimes, even, not until a week or two of it has passed. The Prudential Committee beg that they may be accepted, for they have no time to look for another. The teacher's qualifications are below the needs of the school, yet they are accepted. Why? Because, at that late day it is next to impossible to procure a known good teacher in time for the school, and with the money at command. We have hoped they might do well after all. Some, who have eventually made our best teachers, have been found under such circumstances; others have proved in the school-room their utter want of tact and ability for teaching.

We are thus particular to report what seems to be in the way of the progress of our schools, hoping a united, well-directed effort may be made to remedy the evils under which we labor.

"It is a great wrong, but it will last my time. Whosoever is a consenting party to a wrong, comforting himself with the base reflection that it will last *his* time, shall bear his portion of that wrong throughout ALL TIME." *Charles Dickens.*

Believing in the correctness of the opinion of Montaigne, that "a sound head is better than a full one," we have endeavored to restrain the tendency to fill the mind with crude, unconnected ideas. To that end we prohibited the teaching of all foreign languages and higher mathematics, which had been introduced, causing a neglect of the primary department—always a large part of mixed schools. Said Theodore Parker,—"I would always treat a child as a live tree, which is to be helped to grow. A live tree, and not dead timber, is every little child." That they may grow, their minds must be reached through their perceptive faculties. The teacher must spend much time in oral instruction, and in presenting illustrations, teaching them to use their eyes; for the pupils are too young to reason. If such instruction is neglected because the time is occupied with higher branches, we soon find the schools without any desire or ability to pursue an academic course.

In excluding Greenleaf's National Arithmetic, we are well aware that some have felt aggrieved,—more than that, wronged, even,—thinking that by such action they were deprived of the privileges of a common school education. We therefore give further reasons for its exclu-

sion. Few are qualified to teach it understandingly. We never supposed the author designed it for the use of such schools. Another and very potent reason is, that we have not found a single class who understood the principles laid down in the common school arithmetic, or in fact any written arithmetic, sufficiently well to express the operations to be performed in a simple question in analysis.

One reason for the change of Readers was the superior illustrations found in those adopted. That any teacher should fail to see the advantages of those illustrations, or avail herself of those advantages, is a matter of regret. While visiting one school, we saw a class learning the alphabet. Upon the first page of the First Reader is found the alphabet, in large and small type, unillustrated. Upon the following pages is the same, in plain and fancy type, with words beginning with each letter, and pictures of the articles or animals represented by the words. The teacher took the book from the first, opened to the first page, and gave the lesson from that. As soon as the book was returned, the child turned the leaf to the illustrations: so with the rest of the class.

The Readers have not been used as we hoped they would be. There is much instruction, that might and should be given in the school-room, that is not and cannot be compiled in the form of text-books; neither can a definite course be marked out for any particular teacher or school, but must be left to her to adapt to the age and condition of her pupils. That such instruction should not be neglected, we required one half day in each week to be devoted to general exercises. One school was visited on the day for such exercises, and found occupied with the usual routine and strict adherence to text-books. On inquiring for the exercises we expected, we were told by the teacher that she thought "it would not hurt the scholars to review a little." When told that this was not what we expected, she replied: "If I do not do that, what do you think I can do?"

We have briefly referred to each teacher and school. They have labored under so many disadvantages, we think censure should be limited, and praise bestowed wherever it honestly could. The work of those teachers (comparatively much or little, whether they earned their money or half earned it) is of less consequence to you to-day than the condition of the schools; for the teachers of this year are not wholly responsible for the schools as we find them. We find but three teachers who taught two terms in the same school. With a teacher who is an entire stranger to the pupils and their acquirements, and with no general system,

how much can be expected in a term of from six to ten weeks? In District No. 8, the united length of the three terms was twenty-four weeks. Three separate teachers were employed, none of whom had ever taught the school before. We think, as a general rule, sixteen weeks during the year, with one good teacher, would be better than twenty-four weeks with three good teachers.

Generally the knowledge possessed by the pupil is very imperfect. The elements are neglected. Efforts are made to apply the principles of a science before the principles themselves are learned. Mechanically to perform all the examples in the arithmetic is the highest mathematical ambition discovered. The students in grammar are satisfied to repeat the rules, while unable to write correctly a simple declarative sentence.

If we have failed to suggest a true cause for the present condition of the schools, we hope this assertion will induce you to discover it, and to seek a remedy. Those who leave our schools for the academy will suffer by the comparison, when they take their places with those who have had nominally the same, but really far better training.

In conclusion, to quote one more from Dickens,—“See, each of you, before you take your ease, that what will ‘last your time’ be just enough to last forever.”

F. F. FISKE,  
EDWARD BUXTON,  
EPHRAIM LITTLE.

## DISTRICTS.

DISTRICT No 1 (*Sweatt's Mills*).

Miss L. Jennie Call, teacher. Two terms, of six weeks each, with a short vacation between. Wages of teacher per month, including board, \$22; whole number of scholars attending first term, 10; average attendance,  $9\frac{5}{12}$ ; whole number of scholars attending second term, 14; average attendance,  $12\frac{4}{15}$ .

Most of the scholars acquitted themselves well in their recitations. The promptness and correctness of their answers showed that the teacher had been faithful and successful in giving instruction. Some have made good progress, some very good. A more exact and conscientious obedience to the rule against whispering, on the part of some of the pupils, would have made the school more pleasant to the teacher, and more profitable to the scholars.

L.

## DISTRICT No. 2.

Summer term, taught by Miss Fannie E. Sawyer. Wages of teacher per month, including board, \$20; length of school, in weeks, 7; whole number of different scholars, 11; average attendance,  $10\frac{1}{4}$ ; instances of tardiness, 34; pupils not absent one half day, 3; dismissals, 1.

When we approved of Miss Sawyer as teacher of this school, it was with confidence that her labor would be satisfactory. At our visit, during the first week of the term, our confidence was strengthened. We were not informed of its close, and, therefore, the first was the only visit made. A register was received, signed by Miss Luella M. Heath, as teacher for the second term. Miss Heath made no application for a certificate as teacher for that school, and without such certificate was entitled to no compensation.

F.

DISTRICT No. 3 (*Corser Hill*).

The summer term was kept by Miss Luella M. Heath, eight weeks. Wages, per month, including board, \$22; whole number of scholars, 15; average attendance, 14; number of children in the district, between 4 and 14 years, not attending school, 3; instances of tardiness, 56; instances of dismissal, 13; pupils not absent one half day, 1; cases of corporal punishment, 3.

Winter term was kept by the same teacher, nine weeks. Wages, \$22 per month, including board; whole number of scholars, 17; average attendance,  $15\frac{1}{2}$ ; instances of tardiness, 76; instances of dismissal, 5.

Both of these terms were, in some respects, profitable. The teacher endeavored, assiduously, to make herself acceptable to her scholars, and to secure their improvement. In their studies they went over considerable ground, but defectively. B.

**DISTRICT No. 4 (*Battle Street*).**

Summer term—Miss Mary R. Webster, teacher. Length of term, 6 weeks; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$16; number of scholars, 9; average attendance, 8.

Miss Webster is an excellent teacher, and her management of the school, both in imparting instruction and maintaining order, has been all that could be asked or reasonably desired.

Winter term—Miss Susan E. Arey, teacher. Length of term, 8 weeks; wages of teacher per month, including board, \$20; whole number of scholars, 8; average attendance,  $7\frac{1}{2}$ .

The appearance of the school, both in deportment and in the advance made in the several branches of study, was very pleasing to the committee and others who were present at the examination. The interest that the citizens of this district take in their school was manifested by the presence of a goodly number of them at the examination at the close of each term. L.

**DISTRICT No. 5 (*Sanborn Hill*).**

The summer term was kept by Miss Ida M. Perkins, of Warner, 7 weeks. Wages per month, \$18; whole number of scholars, 7; average attendance, 4; instances of tardiness, 13; instances of dismissal, 1; pupils not absent one half day, 1; instances of corporal punishment, none.

The teacher was, to a considerable degree, successful in this her first attempt to teach. One scholar ran away from this school, and from his home; another was, for some reason, withdrawn from the school; and another was, by reason of sickness, withdrawn from the closing examination of the school,—at which, therefore, there were only four scholars, who seemed to have been interested in their studies, and to have made commendable improvement.

Winter term was kept by the same teacher, eight weeks. Wages per month, \$14; whole number of scholars, 7; average attendance, 4;